Dear Marina, 4/30/95

Probably the two most important reviews for books are in the New York Times and Publishers Weekly. The latter is in the book business. I do not see it but the enclosed copy of its review was sent to me marked up as it is. The Times review, as you can see, is quite critical of Mailer's Tale, as I'm now thinking of it. The PW review will not encourage book stores to order large numbers. PW rarely has such a review. So the book is not looked on with favor. This does not reduce the fact that it is dishonest and is intended to deceive and to hurt people -for money. But it leads me to believe many fewer people will buy it. Other than Mailer fans, of whom there are many.

I will soon have written my way to where I'll be writing about his book. I've been skimming it, making few notes and using a highlighter. I do not intent to read the Minsk part at all. It adds only detail to what was known and that detail has not significant at all. I'll spend what time I can on the second part. But if you can give me the page numbers of gross errors, like referring to your friend as your sister, I can use those things to show that even where it makes no real difference he cannot get things straight.

I'll be spending most time on the second part of the book, which was not in the plans for it at all. There I'm looking for and finding stupidties and deliberate dishonesties.

His main sorces there are the Commission's published material. I have several cases already where he does that corruptly. That, with any attention, will hurt and embarrass him. Schiller does not embarrass.

If you have any suggestions, please send them. And the more I think of it, he-man that he considers himself, the more useful your account of how they sought to pressure you will be useful. Particularly with his description of you.

Mailer seems to be travelling and appearing in book stores.

That may also get him on local TV.

Perhaps some interviews in the papers.

If you see any I'll appreciate copies. The man seems to put at least one foot in every time he opens his mouth.

Best wishes,

Harold

I wrote the first page at about 2 a.m. before getting to work. I got the Washington Post about 7:30 and then wrote the editor of its book review section the letter I'll enclose. Then my friend Dave Wrone, the Wisconsin history professor, phoned to tell me that today's Sunday New York Times Book Review section has an article praising Mailer's book. I will get a copy later. If you decide to write it, a letter a simple one to the editor of the New York Times, 229 W. 43 St., New York 10036, ask if _____ _____ (who ~~write~~ wrote the Sunday review) read the same book ~~Michiko~~ Michiko ~~Kaka~~ Kakutani ~~wrote~~ read.

To that you need only add that apparently fact has become irrelevant to the Times because Mailer assumed Lee's guilt and never looked at the official evidence that proves Lee was not the assassin, as he surely wasn't.

They just may use if with your name on it, in your writing.